construction of canopy on city side at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.89 crore. Work is likely to be taken up in 2003-04. DIBRUGARH-Strengthening/extension of runway, construction of new terminal building, new fire station and isolation bay at an estimated cost of Rs. 41.00 crore. Necessary approvals are being obtained. LILABARI-Installation of Instrument Landing system (ILS) at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.00 crore. Land acquisition is in progress. Work is likely to be taken up during 2003-04. SILCHAR-Strengthening/extension of runway and allied works at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.00 crore. Necessary approvals are being obtained. DIMAPUR-Development of runway strip improvement of drainage system and boundary wall etc. and installation of ILS at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.85 crore. Work is likely to be taken up in 2003-04. ILS has been ordered and will be installed after completion of grading of area and civil works. IMPHAL-Strengthening of runway, construction of isolation bay and widening of apron at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.00 crore. Work is in progress and likely to be completed by October, 2003. SHILLONG-Construction of operational wall and installation of DVOR at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.80 crore. Work is likely to be completed. AGARTALA-Strengthening/extension of runway, construction of isolation bay and allied works and strengthening of existing apron and link taxiway at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.36 crore. Work is in progress and likely to be completed by October, 2003. Besides there is also a provision of Rs. 150 crore for proposed construction of a new airport at Pakyong in Sikkim.

Hindi magazines at airport lounge

†153. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Hindi magazines and newspapers *vis-a-vis* English newspapers and magazines made available in airport lounge and on board;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the acute shortage of the Hindi magazines these are not available to the passengers very often;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the official language is being neglected due to this practice; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated by Government to make Hindi magazines and newspapers available in adequate number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) 50% Hindi magazines including regional language magazines are provided by Indian Airlines and the Airports Authority of India provides only the Hindi Newspapers in the lounge, and not the magazines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Direct flights from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London

154. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Airways plans to start direct flights from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to introduce more direct services to Europe and United States to attract tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) British Airways have evinced interest to start operations from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London in near future. However, these two stations are not presently available to them as points of call and such proposals are to be considered during Government level bilateral civil aviation talks as and when held.

(c) Effective December, 2002, Air India extended their thrice weekly services to Paris to Newyork, which has subsequently been increased